

CLEAN VERSION OF THE PENDING CLAIMS

69. (Twice Amended) A purified and isolated Osteoclastogenesis Inhibitory Factor (OCIF) binding protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 16, and SEQ ID NO: 17, wherein said OCIF-binding protein promotes osteoclast differentiation and maturation.
80. (Once Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding an OCIF-binding protein comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 18, and SEQ ID NO: 19.
82. (Once Amended) A DNA fragment amplified using primers comprising SEQ ID NO: 9 and SEQ. ID NO: 6.
84. (Once Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 80, wherein said OCIF-binding protein comprises amino acid residues 76-316 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
85. (Once Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 80, wherein said OCIF-binding protein comprises amino acid residues 72-316 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
87. (Once Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 80, wherein the protein encoded by said nucleic acid suppresses the biological activity of OCIF.
88. (Once Amended) The isolated nucleic acid of claim 80, wherein said OCIF-binding protein comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17.
90. A method of recombinantly producing OCIF-binding protein, comprising expressing the nucleic acid of claim 80 in a host cell.